



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

February 5, 2013

Issuance of Limited Environmental Reviews
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and
Government Agencies

City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Water Main Replacement Projects

WSRLA No. FS390255-0027 – West Liberty Street, Atson Lane, Drott Avenue,
Fairbanks Avenue, Blanchard Avenue, Wessels Avenue, Sliker Avenue, Atson Lane,
Dorothy Lane, Wessels Lane, Carson Avenue, Mayfield Avenue, and Ridlen Avenue
WSRLA No. FS390255-0029 – Murray Road

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced projects and finds neither a Supplemental Study (SS) nor an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to implement the projects as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER).

The proposed projects involve replacing deteriorated cast iron water mains in parts of the distribution system. The LER was completed for the projects as they will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for these projects.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed actions in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the project general plan, and through the plan review process. Subsequent to the review, this Agency has found that the proposed actions do not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed projects are limited in scope and meet all applicable criteria, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. Specifically, the projects:

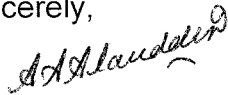
- have no significant adverse environmental effect,
- have no effect on high value environmental resources,
- do not require extensive specific impact mitigation,

- are clearly cost-effective,
- are not controversial actions, and
- will not provide capacity to serve populations substantially greater than the existing populations.

The LER presents additional information on the proposed projects, their costs and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan awards may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on a proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,



Alauddin Alauddin, Acting Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Identification

Name: City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)
Water Main Replacement Projects

1. WSRLA No. FS390255-0027 – West Liberty Street, Atson Lane, Drott Avenue, Fairbanks Avenue, Blanchard Avenue, Wessels Avenue, Sliker Avenue, Dorothy Lane, Wessels Lane, Carson Avenue, Mayfield Avenue, and Ridlen Avenue
2. WSRLA No. FS390255-0029 – Murray Road

Address: Carel Vandermeiden, GCWW Chief Engineer
4747 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

B. Background of Projects and Existing Need

The City of Cincinnati's GCWW has applied to Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for low-interest financing of two proposed projects involving the replacement of water lines within the GCWW service area. This document summarizes Ohio EPA's environmental review of the above listed proposed water main replacement projects.

GCWW provides about 136 million gallons (MG) of potable water per day through approximately 3,100 miles of water mains to most of Hamilton County and parts of Butler and Warren counties in Ohio, and to Boone County in Kentucky. GCWW supplies water from two sources. The Miller Treatment Plant treats surface water from the Ohio River, and the Bolton Treatment Plant treats ground water from wells in the Great Miami Aquifer in southern Butler County. Water from the Miller and Bolton treatment plants is delivered to customers in an open distribution system, mixing water from both sources in the water mains.

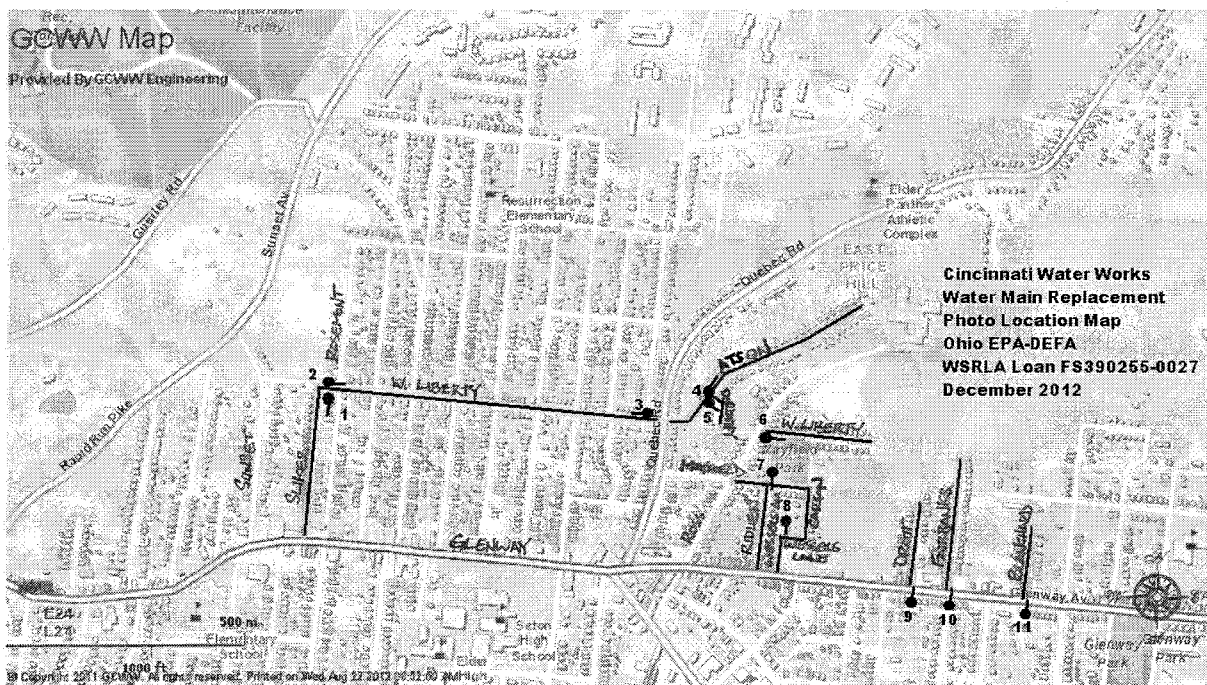
These projects are part of GCWW's ongoing water main replacement program to proactively address the older water mains in the distribution system. The proposed projects will replace a number of older, higher maintenance, cast iron water mains in the GCWW distribution system, some of which date back to the early 1900s. There are 1,857 miles of cast iron water mains in the system. GCWW estimates that it loses 11.5% of the treated water it produces through cracks in the cast iron mains. GCWW calculations show that replacing leaking mains could reduce water system demand by about 2.2 MG/mile/year.

C. Project Descriptions

West Liberty Street–Atson Lane Area Water Main Replacement Project:

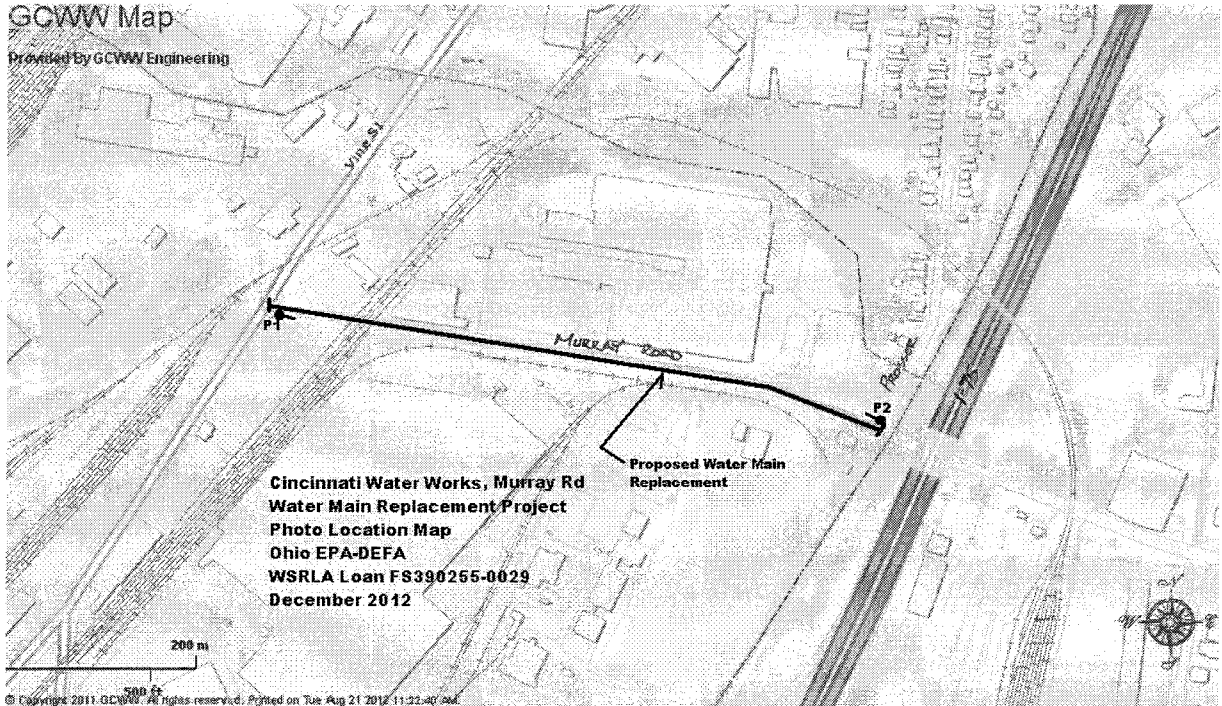
The West Liberty Street, Atson Lane, Drott Avenue, Fairbanks Avenue, Blanchard Avenue, Wessels Avenue, Sliker Avenue, Dorothy Lane, Wessels Lane, Carson Avenue, Mayfield Avenue, and Ridlen Avenue water main replacement project replaces older water mains in the GCWW distribution system in the southwestern part of Cincinnati (map below). The project consists of replacing existing 6-inch diameter water distribution mains with new 6-inch and 8-inch diameter mains. This construction project includes replacement of an estimated total of 10,202 feet of water main on the following streets:

Sliker Avenue (from Glenway, north to West Liberty) - 1,107 feet
West Liberty Street (from Sliker, east to Quebec) - 2,400 feet
Atson Lane (from Quebec, northeast to terminus) - 1,593 feet
Dorothy Lane (from Atson to south terminus) - 295 feet
West Liberty Street (from Ross to east terminus) - 787 feet
Mayfield Avenue (from Ross, east to Carson) - 520 feet
Ridlen Avenue (from Glenway, north to Mayfield) - 640 feet
Wessels Avenue (from Glenway, north to Wessels Lane) - 280 feet
Wessels Lane (from Wessels Avenue, east to Carson) - 157 feet
Carson Avenue (from Wessels Lane, north to Mayfield) - 385 feet
Drott Avenue (from Glenway to north terminus) - 623 feet
Fairbanks Avenue (from Glenway to north terminus) - 945 feet
Blanchard Avenue (from Glenway to north terminus) - 490 feet



Murray Road Water Main Replacement Project:

The Murray Road water main replacement project replaces an older, cast iron water main in north central Cincinnati (see map below). This project will replace



the existing 8-inch and 16-inch diameter pipe with new 16-inch PVC pipe. A total of 2,160 feet of water main will be replaced.

In summary, construction of the water main replacements should be straightforward. A trench will be dug in the road rights-of-way, near the existing waterlines. The 6-inch and 8-inch replacement mains will require a 2-foot wide trench. Installation of the new 16-inch main will require a 3-foot wide trench. The minimum depth will be approximately 4.5 feet. The new waterlines will be installed, tested, and connected to the upstream and downstream portions of the existing waterlines that will remain in operation during installation of the new mains. The replaced part of the existing waterlines will be abandoned in-place. Since the new waterlines will be installed in the paved roadway, no significant adverse impact is expected.

D. Estimated Project Costs

The project costs are expected to be funded with low-interest loans through the WSRLA program administered by Ohio EPA. GCWW meets the program criteria for a non-disadvantaged community with affordability points, qualifying it for a 1.75% interest rate for up to 20 years. By using WSRLA funding instead of the current OWDA 3.59% market rate funding, GWCC will save on interest costs. The bid construction cost and interest savings are listed in the following table.

Project Name	Construction Cost	Interest Savings with WSRLA Funding
Liberty Street-Atson Lane Area	\$1,832,758	\$404,420
Murray Road	\$655,652	\$144,680

The WSRLA loans will be repaid through revenue generated by GCWW's user charge system. In accordance with the City's rate ordinance, the user charges increased by approximately 7% on January 1, 2013 and are scheduled to increase by an additional 7% on January 1, 2014. Based on the current user charges, the average residential customer within the City of Cincinnati, using 2,807 cubic feet (28.07 CCF) of water per quarter (7,000 gallons per month),

would pay a quarter (\$2.28 per CCF quarter service charge). This translates to an inside Cincinnati) resident \$311 for finished areas outside Cincinnati user charges. Website (www.cincinnati-ohio.gov) for more information on water rates.

Cincinnati's annual income (MHI) is average annual user charge of the median household is below the Ohio the 2010 state average use charge as a percentage MHI).

Cincinnati's projected user cost is within cities in the region, narulation 42,510) - \$lation 141,527) - \$353,(population 48,694ity of Cincinnati's popul

Project Schedule

It is expected that for the two water projects will be awarded iConstruction schedules are listed below.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Liberty – Atson Area	1/15/13	8 months
Murray Road	1/15/13	6 months

F. Public Notification

GCWW is proactive in terms of informing the public of waterline replacement projects. GCWW maintains an informative website including council meeting videos, which is updated regularly to notify the public of projects and other current news. The Annual Consumer Confidence Report sent to all water customers provides updates on the progress that GCWW is making in replacing its older, inadequate water system infrastructure.

In addition, GCWW will publish notice of the availability of and provide this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) decision to interested parties for public comment. GCWW will place the LER and FNSI on its website (<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/>). Ohio EPA will also post these documents on its website (<http://epa.ohio.gov/default.aspx>) under the "WPCLF" tab in the "Documents Available for Review" list. Additional information supporting the FNSI and LER is available upon request from the Ohio EPA address at the end of this document.

G. Planning Information

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance has reviewed and approved the facilities planning for these projects. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office reviewed the proposed projects and concurred with Ohio EPA's determination of "no historic properties affected" because no historically significant resources are present in the Area of Potential Effect (the trench excavation will be in previously disturbed rights-of-way). Since the water main replacements will be entirely in paved rights-of-way in fully developed areas, no review by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was necessary. Ohio EPA is not aware of any opposition to the project.

H. Conclusion

The proposed water main replacement projects meet Ohio EPA's general criteria for a Limited Environmental Review, being actions in portions of an already existing water system that are designed to replace the existing waterlines. Furthermore, the projects meet the following specific qualifying criteria for a LER:

- Have no significant adverse environmental effect; have no effect on high value environmental resources; and therefore do not require extensive, specific impact mitigation - No significant environmental resources will be affected. The waterline will be installed by excavation of a trench in the paved street, so land disturbance due to installation is not expected. The project area is entirely developed and there are no significant water resources or critical habitat in the immediate area. The only anticipated impacts due to the project would be short-term. Traffic disruption, noise and dust will be addressed by following typical mitigative measures identified in the project plans. Basic construction best management practices will be followed during waterline installation, and excavated soil will be immediately disposed in a manner that will not impact surface waters, floodplains, or wetlands.
- Are cost-effective – Replacement of the old cast iron waterlines will result in improved water quality, less service disruptions and reduced water losses. As a result, water demand will be decreased, which will reduce treatment costs. The proposed project will utilize materials superior to those used when the lines were initially installed 50 to 100 years ago.
- Are not controversial actions – Replacement of the water mains is not expected to increase user charges beyond those already set by ordinance or create significant adverse impacts. There is no known opposition to the projects.
- Will not provide capacity to serve populations substantially greater than the existing populations; do not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters - The proposed projects consist of replacing deteriorated waterlines in fully developed areas, so the immediate service area demand will remain about the same. No discharge of pollutants is involved. Therefore, the projects will not result in any increase in service, discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving waters.
- Will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from existing water sources - The proposed projects are limited to the replacement of deteriorated waterlines with lines of similar capacity. The waterline replacements will enable the City to continue to provide a safe and reliable water supply. The projects may actually reduce the rate of water withdrawals by decreasing leakage losses in the distribution system.

The planning activities for the projects have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, woodlands, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species). Implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications, and construction activity will be limited to the paved streets. For the preceding reasons, Ohio EPA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact to the human or natural environments for these two projects. The projects will provide improved water service that is safe and reliable for residents and businesses, and reduce treatment costs by reducing water loss due to leakage from old water mains.

I. For further information, please contact:

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